



News Release

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NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH: BE INFORMED

LINCOLN, Neb. – Would you know the safest thing to do in an earthquake? Did you know there is an online training course to encourage community hurricane preparedness? Perhaps neither seems relevant in Nebraska.

“What’s the difference between a winter storm watch and a winter storm warning,” said Michael L. Parker, federal coordinating officer for the Missouri River flood disaster in Nebraska. “That’s more fundamental knowledge for Nebraskans.”

Those answers and a wealth of other detailed information is found on www.ready.gov, FEMA’s website designed to help the public be more prepared for emergencies.

September is National Preparedness Month cosponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Citizen Corps and the Ad Council.

“Emergency management isn’t reserved for those employed as emergency managers,” said Earl Imler who heads Nebraska Emergency Management Agency’s response and recovery division. “It’s something everyone should consider. In fact, preparation for potential emergencies by individuals and businesses, can limit injuries and reduce loss of life and property damage when emergencies occur.”

One way to begin learning is to sign up to become a National Preparedness Month coalition member at the *Ready.gov* website. You will have access to a toolkit including templates, articles, banners and suggestions for activities and events. Coalition members also can join in on regional and national discussion forums to communicate with other coalition members and FEMA representatives.

There is even a text book available, **Are You Ready?**, a 204-page in-depth guide to citizen preparedness. Two versions can be downloaded, text only or illustrated in PDF format.

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